Fourth report of NCF

2890. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fourth report of the National Commission on farmers has been submitted to Government, recently;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake a suicide census of farmers and a code of conduct for contract farming and to provide the farmers all-round boost and necessary credit and marketing backup as recommended by the Commission so as to save the farmers from starvation deaths and suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations contained in the Fourth Report submitted by the Commission relate to establishment of a National Agricultural Biosecurity System (NABS) and Draft National Policy for Farmers.

(c) The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Functioning of Aquaculture Development Authority

2891. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aquaculture Development Authority of India is not functioning at its full and peak efficiency;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of officials have refused to join this organization;

(c) if so, the details of reasons of officials refusing to join;

(d) in what manner Government will help the fish farmers of Andhra Pradesh through this new organization; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that officials join duty and serve the farmers immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Coastal Aquaculture Authority has been set up

vide Notifications SO. 1803 (E) dated 22nd December, 2005 under the provisions of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005. After finalisation of the regulations and their notification in the Official Gazette, the Authority will recruit the sanctioned staff.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The Coastal Aquaculture Authority is mandated to regulate the activities connected with coastal aquaculture. The Guidelines issued under the Rules prescribed in the Act shall ensure that coastal aquaculture does not cause any detriment to the coastal environment by the coastal aquaculture farmers of the country including Andhra Pradesh. The concept of responsible coastal aquaculture shall be followed to protect the livelihood of various sections of the people living in the coastal areas.

(e) The position has been indicated in part 'a' of the question.

Relief package for farmers of Punjab

2892. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to announce a relief package for farmers of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foodgrain yield

2893. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average value of the yield of foodgrains in different States;

(b) the average growth of foodgrains in different States and country; and

(c) whether Government have taken steps to improve the growth rate and average yield of foodgrains?